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Docket No. HRT0233

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : James R. Gannoe, et al.

Serial No. : 09/492,558 Art Unit : 3732

Filed : January 27, 2000 Examiner : P. Philogene

Title : APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR CARDIAC SURGERY

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being faxed to the
United States Patent & Trademark Office at (703) 872-9306 on March 22, 2005

/BS Tomko/
Brian S. Tomko
(Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative)

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 24, 2004, the time for responding having been extended by petition, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this document.

Approved for entry!
4/18/05
P.B.